SPECIFICATION AMENDMENTS

Please add the following paragraphs before the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10:

-- The object of the invention can be attained by the following:

1. Implantable structure of flexible consistency for the sustained and controlled release of an active substance, consisting of a bioresorbable support and an active substance, in which the active substance is intimately associated with the support, and in which the bioresorbable support is formed of a mixture of a lactic acid/glycolic acid copolymer and about 0.5 to 20% by weight, preferably about 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the support, of a biocompatible plasticizer selected from lactic acid, a lactic acid oligomer and a mixture of these compounds, said mixture of copolymer and plasticizer having a Tg below or equal to 15°C.

2. Implantable structure according to item 1 in which the lactic acid/glycolic acid copolymer has a weight ratio between the lactic acid and glycolic acid units ranging from about 80/20 to 20/80, preferably

ranging from about 70/30 to 30/70 and particularly preferably of 50/50.

3. Implantable structure according to items 1 or 2 in which the active substance is selected from local anesthetics, morphine or non-morphine analgesics, healing factors, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, antifungals, corticoids, hormones, antimitotics, growth factors and a mixture of these active substances.

4. Implantable structure according to item 3 in which the active substance is a local anesthetic.

5. Implantable structure according to one of items 1 to 4 which is in the form of a yarn, film, hank, ribbon, sliver, woven or non-woven fabric, plate, catheter, tablet, sheet or suture thread.

6. Implantable structure according to one of items 1 to 4 which is in the form of a sandwich structure.

7. Process for the manufacture of an implantable structure for the sustained and controlled release of an active substance, consisting of a bioresorbable support and an active substance, in which the active substance is intimately associated with the support, and in which the bioresorbable support is formed of a material which comprises an aliphatic polyester of

therapeutic value as the main component and has a Tg below or equal to 15°C, said process comprising the following steps:

a) mixing of the component products of the structure,

b) passage of some or all of the resulting mixture through the liquid and/or viscous state, with or without applied pressure, in a transfer chamber, and

c) shaping of the implantable structure under pressure from this intermediate state.

8. Process according to item 7 which also comprises d) a heat treatment step.

9. Process according to items 7 or 8 in which step b) is effected at a temperature between the melting point of the active substance and the glass transition temperature or melting point of the aliphatic polyester of therapeutic value.

10. Process according to items 7 or 8 in which step b) is effected at a temperature that is above both the melting point of the active substance and the glass transition temperature or melting point of the aliphatic polyester of therapeutic value.

11. Process according to one of items 7 to 10 which is a process of compression-transfer molding, injection-transfer molding, or extrusion or spinning with a preliminary transfer step.

12. Process according to one of items 7 to 11 in which the mixture of products obtained in step a) is ground to give a particle size ranging from about 5 to 150 μm, preferably from about 10 to 50 μm.

13. Process according to one of items 7 to 12 in which the aliphatic polyester of therapeutic value is selected from poly(α-hydroxy acids) derived from lactic acid and/or glycolic acid, poly(ε-caprolactone) and mixtures of these compounds.

14. Process according to item 13 in which the bioresorbable support is formed of a mixture of a lactic acid/glycolic acid copolymer and about 0.5 to 20% by weight, preferably about 5 to 15% by weight, based on the weight of the support, of a biocompatible plasticizer.

15. Process according to item 14 in which the lactic acid/glycolic acid copolymer has a weight ratio between the lactic acid and glycolic acid units ranging from about 80/20 to 20/80, preferably ranging

from about 70/30 to 30/70 and particularly preferably of 50/50.

16. Process according to items 14 or 15 in which the biocompatible plasticizer is selected from lactic acid, a lactic acid oligomer and a mixture of these compounds.

17. Process according to item 13 in which the bioresorbable support is formed of a mixture of poly(ε-caprolactone) and a water-soluble material in an amount which can range up to 20% by weight, preferably from 2 to 10% by weight, based on the weight of the support.

18. Process according to one of items 7 to 17 in which the active substance is selected from local anesthetics, morphine or non-morphine analgesics, healing factors, anti-inflammatories, antibiotics, antifungals, corticoids, hormones, antimitotics, growth factors and a mixture of these active substances.

19. Process according to item 18 in which the active substance is a local anesthetic. --